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English only

The United Nations First Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 7-11 July 2003

Letter dated 27 May 2003 from the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations and with reference to the latter's note No. DDA/9-2003 dated 12 February 2003, and AD/9/357/03, please find attached the translation of the national report on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

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A report on the spread of weapons and their Trade along with the Jordanian efforts to control them

The Jordanian authorities saved no efforts to decrease and control firearms trafficking and its illegal ownership as it causes social, economical and security problems. The following are examples of such problems:

- The appearance of weapons smugglers.
- Dissipating the national income.
- Helping committing crimes.

Fighting this phenomenon is a difficult job because of the nature of some tribal categories in the society and the spread of wars and weapons disputes in some neighboring countries.

The Jordanian efforts in fighting weapons trafficking:
Different Jordanian authorities participating in fighting these problems through;

1. Issuing legislations to prohibit weapons trafficking, its illegal ownership and unjustified use. These efforts started with firearms and ammunition law No. 34 for the year 1952 and its subsequent amendments that ended by legal amendment no. 35 for the year 2001. The aforesaid law and its amendments consider weapon trafficking, manufacturing, its illegal ownership and unjustified use as a crime.

2. Organizing both the legal ownership procedures and weapons licensing under certain conditions, only to riffles and small weapons and limiting this ownership to persons who have no criminal records against them and psychologically and mentally fit. This goes in accordance with the firearms law no. 75 for the year 2000 and its amendments.

3. Organizing a continuous media campaign in order to educate the public about the disadvantages of owning weapons and the results of misusing them.

4. Establishing a statistical database on crimes committed in Jordan resulted from using weapons including details about their causes, results, numbers and the age of victims and criminals.

5. Developing weapons inspection equipments used in the airports and borders through: recruiting qualified staff, using scientific equipments and police dogs.

6. Developing the forensic labs especially in the domains of: gunshot residue, use of modern technology, computer systems, to check, preserves and code the weapons.

7. Encouraging and supporting the society to combat the unjustified use and ownership of firearms.

8. Conducting national and international seminars and conferences to follow up the experience of other countries and presenting the Jordanian experience in this field.

9. Verifying the records of licensed traders who are authorized to sell legal weapons.

10. Prohibiting owning and trading the weapons in some special areas like Aqaba and in some other areas.

11. Ensuring the security among people by emphasizing the power of the government and its ability to protect the people and to maintain justice and security.

12. Demolishing all the seized weapons.

Results of combating the phenomenon of illegal weapons trafficking:

The national efforts have come up with considerable results in combating this phenomenon that are represented in the following:

1. Making the needed social changes. As some people were feeling proud of carrying and using weapons, but now, the attitude has been changed.

2. The low rates of demand on firearms.

3. Changing illegal weapon possession to legal possession through getting legal weapon license.

4. The low rate of seized weapons due to effective procedures in combating trafficking itself.

Recommendations:

Building on what have been achieved so far, there are still a lot of efforts to be done in this field through:

1. Follow up the aforesaid procedures and taking advantage of the media aspects.

2. The necessity of finding finance resources that enable the national authorities to compensates old owners of their weapons which are no longer legal so they will be encouraged to get rid of them.